

CHARLESTON

FIRE DEPARTMENT



CFD Responds to Structure Fire on South Street

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Charleston, SC (April 26, 2014): On 02/26/2014 at 12:02 AM, units with the City of Charleston Fire Department, Saint Andrews Fire Department, City of Charleston Police and Charleston County EMS were dispatched for a reported residential structure fire in the area of South and Hanover streets. First fire department units arrived on scene at 12:06 AM and reported fire venting from the rear of the two story single family structure.

The home was occupied by an elderly female and three other family members. The fire was noticed as the elderly female was watching television in a first floor bedroom. The elderly female's daughter assisted her mother in exiting the structure as fire spread from the television to a nearby bed.

Fire personnel initiated a coordinated interior attack on the fire and were able to bring it under control by 12:15 AM. A first floor bedroom sustained heavy fire damage while the remainder of the first floor sustained, smoke, heat and limited fire damage. The 2nd floor sustained heat and smoke damage.

The Charleston Fire Department Fire Marshal Division responded to investigate the fire. The fire originated inside the occupied first floor bedroom near a television cabinet. The cause of the fire was related to an electrical failure near the television cabinet. Investigators also noted that there were two smoke alarm bases on the second floor that were missing smoke alarms. The Red Cross was notified to assist the displaced family.

The Charleston Fire Department would like to take this opportunity to offer a few safety tips:

- 1) Always maintain working smoke alarms in your home – this will improve safety of occupants in a structure by alerting them to a possible fire.
- 2) Every level of a home should have a working smoke alarm. Smoke alarms should be installed inside and outside of each sleeping area.
- 3) Test smoke alarms monthly. Batteries should be changed on a yearly basis.
- 4) Make sure extensions cords are properly rated for their intended use, indoor and outdoor and meet or exceed the power needs of the appliance or tool being used.
- 5) Avoid overloaded outlets. Use a surge protector when plugging in multiple tools or utilities such as televisions, radios, and clocks,

Please contact the Charleston Fire Department for additional advice or information.

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